



New York City Charter Schools: 2015-16 Enrollment Lottery Estimates

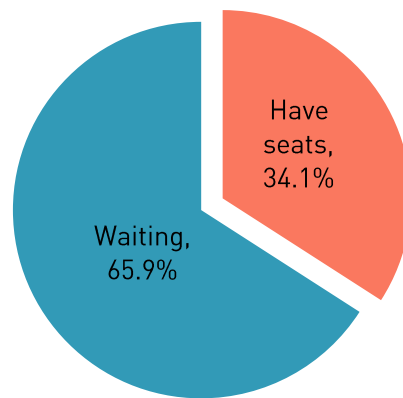
August 2015

New York City Charter Schools: 2015-16 Enrollment Lottery Estimates

Since 2010, the New York City Charter School Center has conducted a survey of all NYC charter schools about their lottery application rates. This spring, out of the 207 NYC charter schools currently enrolling students for 2015-16, 193 (93%) responded to the Charter Center’s survey. Based on survey data and data from the common application, the Charter Center estimates that NYC charter schools received a total of 249,700 applications for 22,000 available seats. Discounting for students who apply to more than one school, this represents an estimated 64,600 applicants for the 22,000 available seats—creating a citywide charter school “waiting list” of an estimated 42,600.

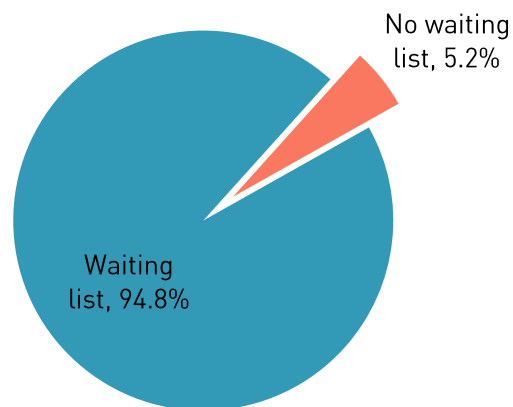
There are approximately 3 applicants competing for each charter school seat.

NYC charter school applicants by enrollment status (2015-16, estimated)¹



Nearly every charter school has a waiting list for enrollment.

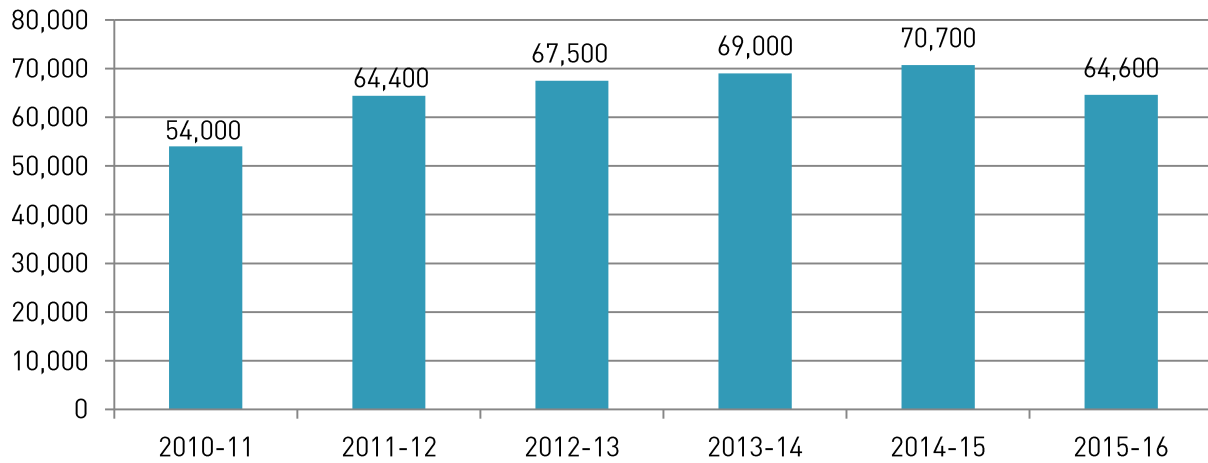
Reporting charter schools by waiting list status (2015-16, n=193)¹



¹ Source: NYC Charter School Center survey and analysis, 2015

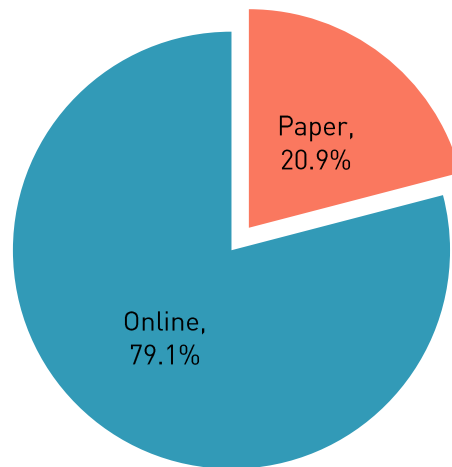
Demand for charter school seats remains strong despite a drop in the number of applicants this year.

Total applicants to NYC charter schools (estimated, 2010-2015)²



Nearly four out of five applications are submitted online—as more charter schools participate in the common application, families have easier access to more school options.

Total applications NYC charter schools by application type (estimated, 2015-16)³

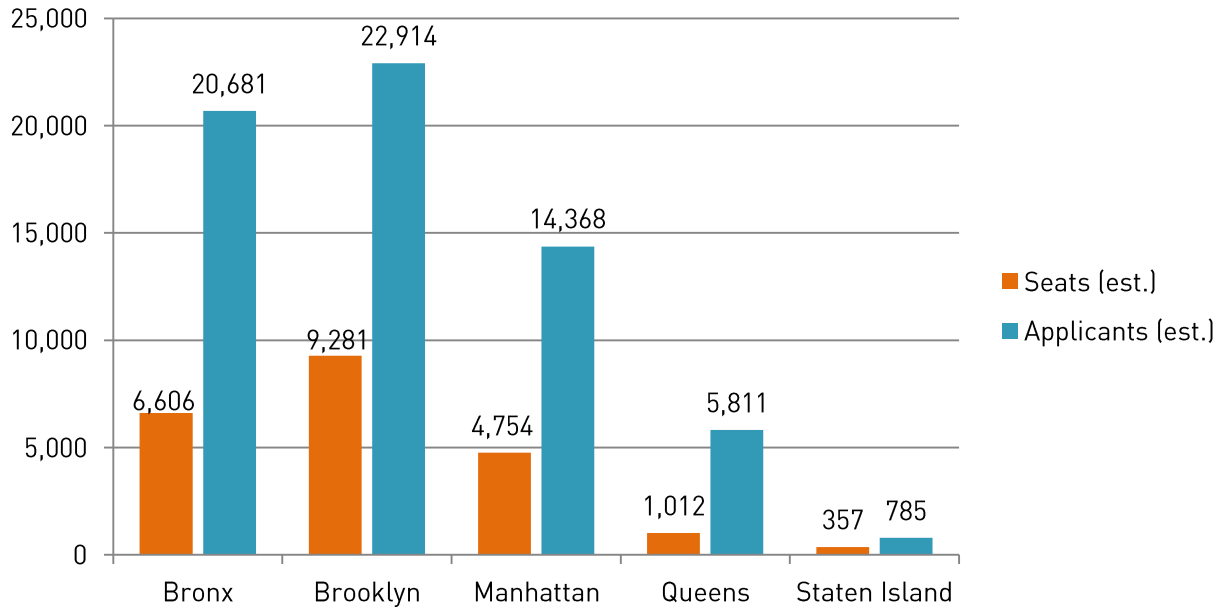


² Sources: Charter Center survey and analysis, 2010-2015

³ Source: Charter Center survey and analysis, 2015

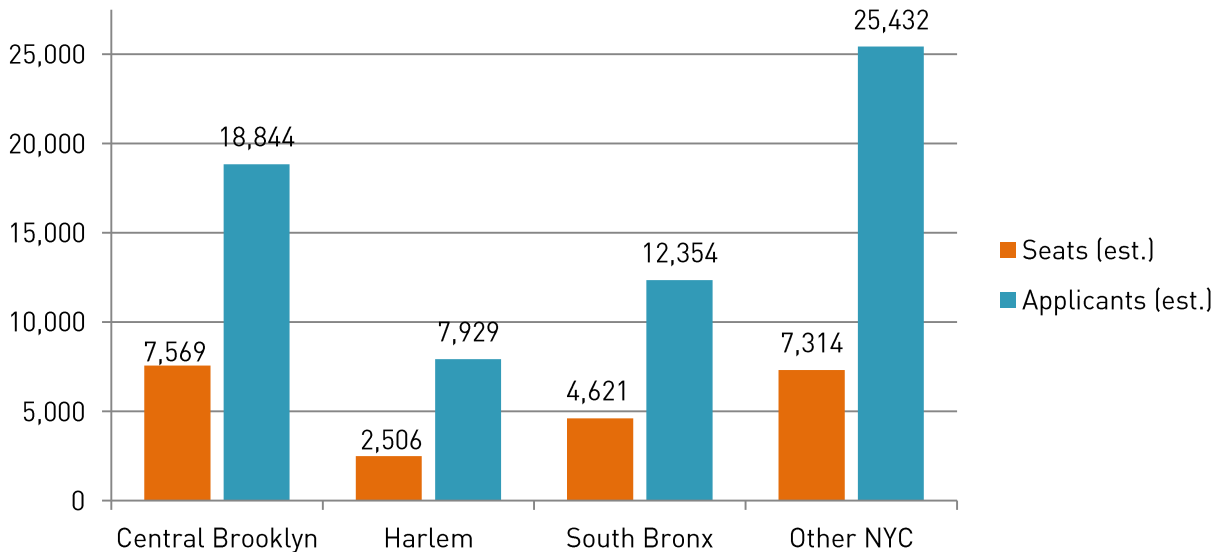
Applicants continue to outnumber available seats in every borough.

NYC charter school applicants and seats, by borough (estimated, 2015-16)⁴



Over 60% of applicants apply in Harlem, the South Bronx, or Central Brooklyn.

NYC charter school applicants and seats, by neighborhood (estimated, 2015-16)⁵



⁴ Source: NYC Charter School Center Survey, 2015

⁵ Harlem is defined as CSD 4, 5; Central Brooklyn 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 32; South Bronx 7, 8, 9.

**Applicants exceed seats in every Community School District,
with thousands of applicants in many CSDs.**

Ranked CSDs by applicants to local charter schools, with seats (estimated, 2015-16)⁶

<i>Rank</i>	<i>CSD (Neighborhood)</i>	<i>Applicants (est.)</i>	<i>Seats (est.)</i>	<i>Applicants per Seat (est.)</i>
1	CSD 11 (NE Bronx)	5,929	595	10.0
2	CSD 5 (Central Harlem)	5,140	1,633	3.1
3	CSD 7 (South Bronx)	4,730	2,547	1.9
4	CSD 9 (SW Bronx)	4,276	789	5.4
5	CSD 14 (North Brooklyn)	3,488	1,177	3.0
6	CSD 17 (Central Brooklyn)	3,475	1,007	3.5
7	CSD 30 (NW Queens)	3,143	369	8.5
8	CSD 3 (West Harlem)	2,944	733	4.0
9	CSD 4 (East Harlem)	2,848	993	2.9
10	CSD 8 (SE Bronx)	2,790	985	2.8
11	CSD 13	2,597	1,445	1.8
12	CSD 19	2,398	1,084	2.2
13	CSD 15	2,328	860	2.7
14	CSD 18	2,271	819	2.8
15	CSD 32	1,997	521	3.8
16	CSD 6	1,940	644	3.0
17	CSD 10	1,558	1083	1.4
18	CSD 29	1,535	321	4.8
19	CSD 12	1,339	487	2.8
20	CSD 16	1,298	943	1.4
21	CSD 23	1,161	612	1.9
22	CSD 22	1,098	592	1.9
23	CSD 2	1,088	618	1.8
24	CSD 21	803	220	3.6
25	CSD 32	785	357	2.2
26	CSD 27	513	146	3.5
27	CSD 1	467	253	1.8
28	CSD 24	347	166	2.1

⁶ CSDs with fewer than two charter schools are excluded

Estimation Methodology

The Charter Center's annual estimates of total citywide charter school applicants have always carefully discounted for applicants who apply to multiple charter schools. To develop the estimates reported above, we use 1) survey data about individual charter schools' applications and available seats, by grade level; 2) survey data about charter school networks' unique applicant counts across schools, where available; and 3) data about unique applicants across the Charter Center's Common Online Charter School Application. Our method also uses insights about single-school vs. common application rates from spring 2012, when the Charter Center hosted an online application in both formats.

Taking into account geographic proximity to other charter schools accepting applications in the same grade levels, network affiliation, and school age, we estimate a set of deflation factors that are specific to each charter school and each grade level where the school had available seats. For survey non-respondents, which represented just 7% of charter schools this year, we estimate applications received based on two regression models of the responding charter schools' key characteristics and applications received. We then use the grade-by-grade applications and deflation factors to calculate fractional estimates of citywide-unique applicants who applied to each school, which are then summed to create the total citywide estimate.

This year, our deflation methodology resulted in a system-wide estimate of each charter applicant applying to 3.87 schools (up from 3.01 last year). In other words, this year's citywide discount rate—to estimate applicants from applications—was 74% (up from 67%). This shift can be attributed to an increase in charter schools using common applications provided by networks and/or the Charter Center, as well as an increase in charter school options across the five boroughs. Additionally, the Department of Education's Kindergarten Connect application also provided a direct link to the Charter Center's Common Online Application, which resulted in more accessibility for parents to apply to charter schools.